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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A synchronous network, comprising:

nodes transmitting data to one another in a predefined sequence for a predefined duration, a plurality of said nodes outputting a synchronization signal defining a reference time for a synchronization of said nodes, said synchronization signal having a duration which is longer than a maximum signal transit time occurring inside the network;

a respective node of said nodes wishing to synchronize with one or more others of said nodes outputting the synchronization signal and further data which identifies said respective node in a time slot assigned to said respective node after outputting the synchronization signal or receiving the synchronization signal from another one of said nodes; and

said synchronization signal having at least one of a time profile and a duration that the synchronization signal can be identified as the synchronization signal even if other

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synchronization signals which are output by different ones of said nodes are overlapping on one another.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (original): The network according to claim 1, wherein the synchronization signal is encoded using one of an NRZ code, a XERXES code, and a Manchester code.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): A synchronous network, comprising:

nodes transmitting data to one another in a predefined sequence for a predefined duration, a plurality of said nodes outputting a synchronization signal defining a reference time for a synchronization of said nodes, said synchronization signal having a duration which is longer than a maximum signal transit time occurring inside the network, wherein a respective node of said nodes wishing to synchronize with one or more others of said nodes initially observes for a predetermined time to determine whether another one of said nodes is outputting the synchronization signal or other data, and, if another one of said nodes is not outputting the

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synchronization signal or other data, said respective node  
outputs the synchronization signal; ~~and~~

said respective node wishing to synchronize with one or more  
others of said nodes outputting further data which identifies  
said respective node in a time slot assigned to said  
respective node after outputting the synchronization signal or  
receiving the synchronization signal from another one of said  
nodes; and

said respective node wishing to synchronize with one or more  
of said nodes defining a chronological position of time slots  
assigned to it as a function of the synchronization signal  
which is output by said respective node or received by said  
respective node from another one of said nodes.

Claims 6 - 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (original): The network according to claim 1, wherein  
the synchronization signal is output in a specific time slot  
of a time slot cycle used.

Claim 10 (original): The network according to claim 9,  
wherein the specific time slot is a global time slot in which

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all of said nodes are allowed to output specific signals and specific data.

Claim 11 (original): The network according to claim 1, wherein all of said nodes output the synchronization signal.

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~The network according to claim 5,~~ wherein A synchronous network, comprising:

nodes transmitting data to one another in a predefined sequence for a predefined duration, a plurality of said nodes outputting a synchronization signal defining a reference time for a synchronization of said nodes, said synchronization signal having a duration which is longer than a maximum signal transit time occurring inside the network, wherein a respective node of said nodes wishing to synchronize with one or more others of said nodes initially observes for a predetermined time to determine whether another one of said nodes is outputting the synchronization signal or other data, and, if another one of said nodes is not outputting the synchronization signal or other data, said respective node outputs the synchronization signal;

said respective node wishing to synchronize with one or more others of said nodes outputting further data which identifies

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said respective node in a time slot assigned to said  
respective node after outputting the synchronization signal or  
receiving the synchronization signal from another one of said  
nodes; and

said respective node wishing to synchronize with one or more  
others of said nodes ~~defines~~ defining a chronological position  
of time slots assigned to it as a function of the  
synchronization signal which is output by said respective node  
or received by said respective node from another one of said  
nodes and as a function of received data which others of said  
nodes have output in their assigned time slots, in order to  
identify itself to others of said nodes.

Claim 13 (currently amended): ~~The network according to claim~~  
~~5, wherein~~ A synchronous network, comprising:

nodes transmitting data to one another in a predefined  
sequence for a predefined duration, a plurality of said nodes  
outputting a synchronization signal defining a reference time  
for a synchronization of said nodes, said synchronization  
signal having a duration which is longer than a maximum signal  
transit time occurring inside the network, wherein a  
respective node of said nodes wishing to synchronize with one  
or more others of said nodes initially observes for a

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predetermined time to determine whether another one of said nodes is outputting the synchronization signal or other data, and, if another one of said nodes is not outputting the synchronization signal or other data, said respective node outputs the synchronization signal;

said respective node wishing to synchronize with one or more others of said nodes outputting further data which identifies said respective node in a time slot assigned to said respective node after outputting the synchronization signal or receiving the synchronization signal from another one of said nodes; and

said respective node wishing to synchronize with one or more others of said nodes ~~defines~~ defining a chronological position of time slots assigned to it as a function of received data which others of said nodes have output in their assigned time slots, in order to identify itself to others of said nodes.

Claims 14 - 15 (canceled)